



The UFO Enigma

A Publication of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis

Volume 20 - Number 10 - June 2000

UFO STUDY GROUP OF GTR ST. LOUIS

MEETING

2 PM Sunday, June 11, 2000

The meeting place will be at Alberto's (The Fountains) restaurant at 8427 Gravois St. Louis, MO 63123. This is a fine cafeteria and they have very good food in very ample portions and at reasonable prices. The room is free if our members and visitors have lunch there, so plan to come early and enjoy a nice Sunday meal before the meeting.

MEETING

The meeting will begin with the introduction of officers and directors and a welcome to all visitors. We will then have an open discussion of information about new UFO cases or UFO related happenings from all sources.

PROGRAM

This is the last meeting before our summer break for July and August and we think it is a good time to review all kinds of UFO facts as we know them, both recent and past. We will try to determine what we really know and what we want to know. We will consider these matters in a Roundtable type discussion and see what subjects are of interest to those present. We can talk about any UFO subject that comes up and all questions will be open for the best answers that we can provide. Hopefully this will be very interesting and full of free wheeling talking. We will also have a video on UFOs available for showing if we run out of things to talk about.

Come and join us with all your questions.

The Enigma is a publication of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, and is published monthly, September through June each year. Not affiliated with any national society, the UFO Study Group is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to the investigation and reporting of both area and national UFO sightings and peripheral areas of interest. Yearly membership is \$20.00. You may contact the UFO Study Group or any of its members and/or submit articles for publication through the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis, Inc., P.O. Box 31544, St. Louis, MO 63131. Please include self-addressed stamped envelope for materials to be returned.

St. Louis UFO Symposium

The MUFON 2000 International UFO Symposium will be held **July 14-16, 2000**, at the Sheraton West Port Hotel (Lakeside Chalet), 191 West Port Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146. The theme is "UFOs in the New Millennium." Confirmed speakers are John S. Carpenter; Stanton T. Friedman; Ted Phillips; John F. Schuessler, Gerald E. Rolwes; Linda G. Corley, Ph.D.; Kevin D. Randle, Ph.D.; Stan Gordon; Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D.; Robert M. Wood, Ph.D.; Colm A. Kelleher, Ph.D. (NIDS); Gregory J. Avery, J.D.; and John Greenewald, Jr. ("The Black Vault").

Registrations for the symposium are now being accepted. Special incentive advance prices to attend all presentations are \$90 prior to July 1, and \$100 at the door. Individual sessions will be \$25 for each of the five sessions. An advance registration form was enclosed in the April issue of the *Journal* for your convenience. Please note the special incentive price for advanced registration.

To register for the symposium, please mail a check or money order payable to "MUFON 2000 UFO Symposium" to P. O. Box 643, St. Charles, MO 63302. Advance registration for the buffet/party on Friday evening 6-9 p.m. is \$20. (None to be sold at the door.)

For further information on the Symposium and vendor tables call 1-800-489-4UFO.

Have A Good Summer

Keep Watching The Skies

From: CNINews1@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2000 10:04 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM CNI NEWS

CNI NEWS SAYS FAREWELL, AND THANK YOU...

Dear Friend of CNI News,

The upcoming issue of CNI News, which will be sent to you by midday on June 1, will be the last you will receive. Undoubtedly this will come as a surprise to many readers, especially those of you who have only recently subscribed or renewed your subscription. Let me say that I'm surprised as well. Until recently, I was anticipating a very different course of action, keeping CNI News as a central focus of my work.

But just a few weeks ago, something quite extraordinary happened. I was offered an opportunity to join a dynamic new media project that will, I believe, soon reach a far larger audience than CNI News ever could. At the moment, this project is still in development and remains mostly confidential. However, I can tell you that it will focus in a scientific way upon a wide range of important issues relating to the human future, including various kinds of mysterious or anomalous phenomena. I can also tell you that my part in this project will be as a writer and editor, much as I've been with CNI News and my other online journal, Global Situation Report. Much of what I produce will appear on the web.

Within a few weeks, it will be possible to tell you more about this new project, and I look forward to that. For now, it seems best to bring CNI News to an orderly, though somewhat hasty, conclusion and make way for exciting new work ahead.

Because the UFO subject is often associated with secrecy and seems to inspire paranoia in some people, please accept my firm assurance that I welcome this new opportunity and have not been "bought off," intimidated nor in any way coerced into shutting down CNI News. Nor has my interest in the UFO subject diminished, even though UFOs will not be a central focus of this new project. I am convinced that this opportunity will enable me to pursue many issues I care about in a more powerful and productive way than ever before.

Let me also assure you that every paid subscriber will receive a full cash refund for the unused portion of his or her subscription. The refund process will take some time but is already underway, and your patience will be appreciated. Those who are owed the most will be refunded first. More information on this will be sent to you shortly.

Those of you who are long-time subscribers surely realize that CNI News has been for me not just a job but a project of the heart. It has brought me many friends and endless fascination. I do hope my efforts as editor have been worthy of your support and trust.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your interest, your caring and your support. Best wishes to you for a healthy, peaceful, safe and gratifying future.

Michael Lindemann
Editor, CNI News

UFO

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#2 CANEY VALLEY DRIVE • PLUMERVILLE, ARKANSAS 72127 USA EDITOR/PUBLISHER: LUCIUS FARISH

May 2000
Number 370

Falling ice balls have Spanish scientists baffled

MADRID • Spanish scientists are puzzled about a rain of melon-sized balls of ice over the country in recent days, discounting theories that they are bits of the tail of a comet, large hail stones or the frozen contents of an airliner's toilet tank.

The scientists are hoping tomorrow's results of a first analysis of the mystery ice will clear up the origin of the giant cubes, some as big as a football and weighing up to four kilograms.

Since Jan. 8, 18 of the ice meteorites have fallen over Spain, mainly in the Valencia region in the east, but also around Seville in the south and Saragossa and Soria in the northeast. The latest fell on Tuesday in a Madrid suburb.

Some explanations of the phenomenon, far from being extraterrestrial, have turned out to be very down to earth. One "mysterious" object "found" by workers on a road turned out simply to be a block of ice they had used as a football.

But that hasn't cleared up questions about the other ice blocks.

The National Weather Forecasting Institute formally ruled out that the blocks were hail stones, saying the phenomena were unknown to meteorological science, and the weather was fine at the time and the skies were blue.

"There is no historic record of a hailstone weighing more than a kilo because updraughts holding up the hailstones in the clouds do not exceed 100 km/h and cannot support any greater weight," said Jeroni Lorente, a scientist at the University of Barcelona.

The first ice balls were blamed on

airliners, but the theory was weakened by the fact they fell to earth away from regular flight paths. Also, the ice is clean, cancelling the theory that airliners might have accidentally emptied their toilet tanks, as occurred over Galicia in 1996.

The respected Higher Centre for Scientific Research (CSC) specu-

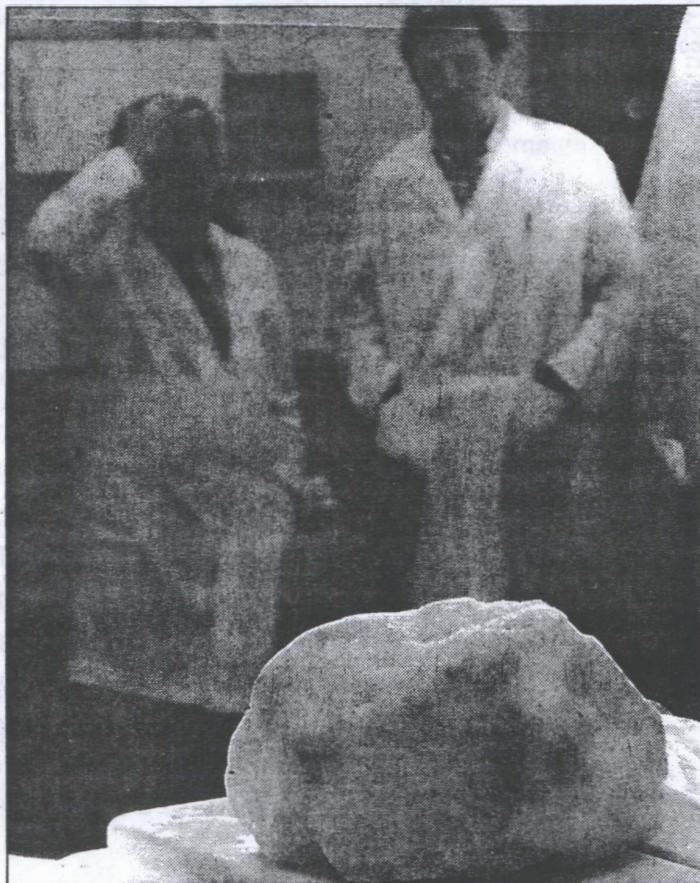
lated on Monday that the ice had dropped from the tail of a comet.

"You could have fooled me," said centre geologist Jesus Martinez Frias, who heads a team of experts from the environment ministry.

Mr. Martinez said it was dangerous to theorize, but contradicted himself by saying that everything seemed to indicate the ice lumps were the remains of a comet.

"Impossible!" retorted Marc Kidger of the Canaries Astrophysics Institute. "The pieces would have all fallen at the same time and not only over Spain."

Agence France-Presse



ANDREA COMAS / REUTERS

Scientists in Spain are still testing the ice balls to find out what they are.

Britain's UFO Secrets Revealed

Antony Barnett, Public Affairs Editor

http://www.observer.co.uk/uk_news/story/0,6903,328010,00.html

6-4-00

On 15 February 1999 an air traffic controller in Scotland noticed something strange on his radar screen. A bright blip on his screen suggested there was a very large object travelling at 3,000mph over the Scottish coastline heading south-west to Belfast.

The size of the blip suggested the object was 10 miles long and two miles wide. Two minutes later the object disappeared from the radar screen.

Three months earlier, MoD documents record that a commercial pilot flying over the Midlands reported an unusual object travelling at 'very high speed' with a very bright strobe light flashing once every 20 seconds.

Although the two incidents were unrelated, both were reported to a little-known department in the Ministry of Defence, known as Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a. This is the secretive section in Whitehall which collates reports of unidentified flying objects that cross British airspace.

Whitehall has traditionally treated reports of UFO sightings as highly classified and only released information to the public after 30 years. But the parliamentary Ombudsman insisted that the MoD hand this information to Colin Ridyard, a research chemist from Wales.

According to official CAA reports, in the same month that a radar picked up an enormous object flying across Scotland, a pilot flying over the North Sea became startled when his aircraft became illuminated by an 'incandescent' light. Three other aircraft in the area reported seeing a ball of light moving at high speed. Air traffic controllers reported there were no strange aircraft in the area, but five minutes later an operator at a weather station picked up a fast-moving object on his radar.

Filer's Files #21-2000
MUFON Skywatch Investigations
George A. Filer: MUFON Eastern Director,
May 27th, 2000
Majorstar@aol.com (609) 654-0020

MICHIGAN AIRPORT UFOs

DETROIT -- Dr. Harry Willnus writes he has been following the UFO scene for more than fifty years. He is the past MUFON Michigan State Director and presently a MUFON consultant. Regarding Filer's Files recent mention of UFO's near airports, I must share that I spent 36 years in education teaching in the Romulus Community School District that contains within its borders the Detroit Metro Airport. The airport ranks as one of the top ten busiest airports in the nation. Northwest Airlines uses Metro as a hub. Over my years of teaching I had classroom contact with thousands of students and hundreds of parents who resided in different sections of the township. My intense interest in UFO's became known in the community. Over the years, I heard hundreds of stories that were UFO related. The reports were sometimes dramatic, with close-in sightings of strange crafts over roof tops or trees. All of this occurred in a little community of 36 square miles with a major airport nearly in the middle of it. Detroit had a major UFO flap in February and March 1978 .

While some of the sightings made the local papers and TV stations, little information appeared out state. The flap had major airport implications. Some of the sightings occurred inside airport fence lines on or near ground level. A few of the sightings were during the day but most came at night. I called the FAA tower control people on a daily basis, but never did receive any confirmation of any UFOs during the specific times sightings were reported. There were dozens of other cases in nearby communities, some multiple witness affairs. The whole flap was pretty exciting. Then it died out after several months. My own guess is that some UFO's use airports as "hiding places". Since there are multiple sets of lights around busy airports at night, it becomes easier for these strange crafts to go about their business without attracting a lot of attention. My gut feeling is that major US airports have numerous UFO sightings by people who reside in the immediate airport area. Generally these sightings are seldom reported. Thanks to Dr. Harry Willnus NOKNOWNOSE@aol.com. Editor's Note: Some of our best cases are in sight of Philadelphia Airport and McGuire Air Force Base. A vice president of a major company claimed the UFOs would hover near his home ten miles from the airport. When helicopters or planes flew near the disc shaped UFO, it would hide in the trees.

MISSOURI NUMEROUS UFO's SIGHTED

NORTHEAST -- On January 13, 2000, we watched approximately 32 UFO's and seven aircraft between 6:45 to 8:45 PM. They were going traveling in all directions and not in formation. There were eight at one time, then three or four at a time. It first started when my daughter and my two grandchildren were on their way to see me. They live about 23 miles west of me. They were driving down the road when my grandson saw something in the sky in the distance and they began to watch it closer. They were so hypnotized by it that they turned off the highway on to a secondary road to get a closer look. They drove several miles down the road until my daughter and grandson began to get scared. They wanted my granddaughter to turn around, but she would not. She was almost hypnotized by the light. She finally pulled onto a gravel road and stopped. Now they were very close to the object and observed it for five minutes. During the time they stayed in this spot the light quit moving and just hovered. The mother and grandson were getting scared so finally my granddaughter started back the same way. The light followed them as they returned the way they came. The UFO crossed over the top of their car and followed them at a distance all the way to my house. When the object passed over the car and when hovering it changed form. It went from actually looking like a UFO to looking completely different. But it was the SAME light! A soon as they got to my house they ran in and got me and we all stood outside watching. That is when it all started. UFOs were everywhere! We counted 32 in all, 7 airplanes. We got a neighbor to watch, then my daughter went to her friend's house and got them to watch, so there were actually about seven witnesses. There was no noise except the noise from the planes. Thanks to Adeline Davis brendad@cableone.net

ARKANSAS FLYING CIGAR STOPS CAR

HOT SPRINGS - On April 9, 2000, I was driving home from church home and saw an enormous cigar shaped craft. I happened to look up and coming straight at me was a metallic pinkish cigar shaped object flying toward my vehicle at about 100 feet above the road when my car died at 16:30 PM. Light was glowing off of it and it was going more than 100 miles an hour. It stopped right in front of my car, and that was the last thing I remembered before I woke up. I have flashes of memory that I seem to recall being held to a table but I couldn't feel any straps or restraints. I was very cold and I heard a high-pitched buzzing the entire time. When I awoke, I was laying in the back-seat of my car. I could smell a burning odor like the wires in my car were fried. It was dark and when I got home about four and a half-hours later. I went to sleep and slept for fourteen hours. Just yesterday, I noticed I had two bright red scars running parallel to each other along my back. I read somewhere that unexplainable scars or missing time were signs of abduction. I really was skeptical at first but now I'm grateful for people like you helping us. Thanks to

Filer's Files #15-2000
MUFON Skywatch Investigations
George A. Filer: MUFON Eastern Director,
April 17th, 2000
Majorstar@aol.com (609) 654-0020

CHICAGO - False radar images have been popping up on the screens of O'Hare International Airport's air traffic controllers, forcing pilots to take sudden turns unnecessarily, the Chicago Sun Times reported in Sunday's May 21, editions. At least a dozen "ghost planes" have been reported during the last few weeks, the newspaper said, citing documents from the Terminal Radar Approach Control Center in Elgin, and interviews with controllers. Controllers said that at least a few times, they have ordered pilots to take sudden turns to avoid what appeared to be planes on their radar, potentially putting passengers at risk.

Editor's Note: It's interesting that some ground observers are also reporting UFOs in the general area. While I was in the Air Force, London Control asked us to intercept a UFO. We were able to get a large radar return on our airborne radar and pick up its lights visually. There are unidentified aircraft in our skies causing a traffic safety hazard that should be investigated by the authorities. When we call air traffic centers to confirm the UFO reports they are instructed to deny all radar correlation's even to airborne aircraft. Fortunately, they will direct aircraft out of harms way.

MINNESOTA FLYING TRIANGLE

RANDLE - On May 13, 2000, a large dark triangle was observed against the clouds with deep five minutes and then seemed to land east of the highway. I rolled down the windows to listen, but there was no sound. It moved very slowly, and had to be about 1,000 to 2,000 feet in width. Thanks to NUFORC
www.ufocenter.com.

MISSOURI FLYING TRIANGLE

INDEPENDENCE -- On May 13, 2000, two witnesses observed a dark triangle with about eight landing lights spanning about one-third of the way back of each leading edge at 10:00 PM. They had the object in sight heading east for eight seconds. It was silent but they could hear a faint aircraft sound far to southwest. Witness #1 is an ex Kansas City Aviation Department employee who has flown small aircraft. The object flew at about stall speed, but the witnesses had no visual reference to determine its altitude or speed. He felt, if they were observing landing lights, he would guess its altitude was 3,000 feet and the object to be about the size of a 707 commercial four engine jet aircraft. Witness #2 has seen stealth bombers in the air many times when he worked at Whiteman Air Force Base. He says, "This the object was not a stealth bomber!" NUFORC note from Peter Davenport: We highlight this case because we spoke at length with the witness, who is quite experienced in the aviation field. He is quite familiar with all types of aircraft, and he reports that the object witnessed was like no aircraft he has ever witnessed before. Editor's Note: Ninety minutes later, a similar craft was sighted over Minnesota.

Filer's Files #20-2000
MUFON Skywatch Investigations
George A. Filer: MUFON Eastern Director,
May 22nd, 2000
Majorstar@aol.com (609) 654-0020

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CNI NEWS -- Vol. 6, No. 7, Part 3 -- June 1, 2000

Global News on UFOs & the Search for Extraterrestrial Life

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This is part 3 of the 4-part CNI News. If you did not receive all parts, please send email to: CNINews1@aol.com.

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PERSPECTIVES

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READERS REPLY TO SURVEY ON PROGRESS OF UFOLOGY

[No issue we've ever published has drawn as much email as our May 1 special edition on the status and progress of ufology. Many readers offered lengthy and thoughtful replies to the views expressed by our 32 expert ufologists. A sample of those letters appeared in our May 16 issue; and here we offer more. Even though most of the following letters have been somewhat edited for length, space did not permit us to include all the email we received. Sincere thanks to every one of our readers who took the time to write.]

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DOUGLAS GRAY wrote:

During the last century, we have killed a hundred million of our own species through wars and genocide, as well as wiping out a number of other species. Genocide is currently ongoing in Sudan, Tibet, and other places. Technologically and (overall) spiritually more advanced races in the galaxy dare not invite us into their cooperative group, as we are still much too dangerous and uncontrolled as a species.

The late Col. Corso provided evidence that at one time, the U.S. Govt. had in its possession manufactured items of extraterrestrial origin. If these materials are now buried under layers of semi-privatized groups (Unacknowledged Special Access Projects), it would help if there were a specific effort on the part of our government to retrieve this material and make it available for public viewing worldwide. A new generation would then grow up with the knowledge that we are not alone in the universe, and that as soon as we cease from our bickering and learn to get along, many possibilities await us in cooperative ventures with other intelligent races. The basic focus should be to use our extraterrestrial assets to promote world peace, harmony, and individual and collective spiritual growth.

A few years back, Art Bell interviewed a man who had been a nuclear missile silo commander during the '70's. He reported that a UFO buzzed their silo and deliberately demonstrated the ability to shut it down. This man reported that the same thing had happened in the Soviet Union, and that in that country the UFOs had also demonstrated the ability to remotely alter the targeting mechanisms. [Note: Claims of this type were published in the book "The UFO Cover-up" by Fawcett and Greenwood (Prentice Hall, 1984), among other places -- ed.]

I have always felt reasonably certain that other intelligent races in the galaxy became very concerned both about our safety and their own as soon as we began to develop nuclear technology. After all, the whole Roswell thing was connected with our Atomic Bomb Group. At least we have a reasonable hypothesis and some evidence to support it. I was disappointed that not one of the researchers you polled was willing to focus on this aspect of the UFO question.

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CYNTHIA BUTLER wrote:

For contactees and people who are serious about the UFO subject, there is no one place to go to ask questions. You notice I don't say one place to go for answers. When you delve into this situation, the first thing you learn is one question just leads to another.

Our first encounter was in 1974 and I didn't find anyone I could talk to about it until 1998. There are all kinds of places to report your sightings -- just clearing houses, no one to actually talk to, to respond to you or your fear.

There are a lot of credible witnesses out there. Since I started talking about my own experience, and I'm very selective about who I do share it with, I'm amazed at how many people have seen things or know someone who has. And I'm not talking about mysterious lights in the skies. Everyone has seen lights in the skies they can't identify. I mean up close sightings that leave virtually nothing to the imagination -- that leave you with virtually no question that what you have seen should not have been there at all, shouldn't even exist. To claim that these are government black projects insults my intelligence. The government does not test their secret experimental aircraft in people's back yards.

All of the investigating I have done has only made me more sure that these things are real, that they are intelligently controlled, and that they are in control of us.

When you spoke of the basic fear behind all this you hit the nail on the head. My husband, who has literally been there through all four up close unquestionable sightings, refuses to even discuss it. We have 2 hours missing time to account for and he was part of the experience. For me, I analyze the situation, decide the harm level and go from there. I know we were abducted, and our two sons and our grandson -- but my husband is the one who gets "turned off", he's the one left behind. He naturally lives with more fear than I do in his everyday life. For him to admit this thing would be to admit that he has no control over any of it and is impotent when it comes to protecting his family. I don't think he could face that.

Deborah Lindemann commented on the possibility for chaos when the visitors finally do make their presence known to the world if the governments continue to ignore the situation. From what I have experienced, the most disturbing part of the abduction experience is not just the lack of physical control, but mind control and lack of free will. I see the world going about their business because we simply must. Because they are in control of us, our emotions, our minds and our activities. How do we know they aren't already managing us? How do we know we aren't already doing their bidding in every way?

I firmly believe that we don't see them unless they want us to. They show themselves at times they feel we are dangerously close to convincing ourselves they don't exist. They want us to know, and it's no accident when there is a sighting. Examine they way they act! Buzzing cars on freeways; lighting up brighter than the Las Vegas strip in your backyard! They don't want to be seen? Don't believe it for a moment. However, the viewing is for the chosen. Fear is the controlling factor. They want us to know, they want us fearful, and I find that very ominous.

I do not pretend to know why they are here or who or what they are. Only that they are definitely here and I don't feel comfortable with it at all. The scientists, the governments, the investigators, the contactees and abductees need to get together and pool their information and then make it available to everyone. Please!

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DON MAINS wrote:

As far as the UFO community being disorganized and fragmented, that might not necessarily be a bad thing. The evolution of ideas, as well as things, has a way of forcing the cream to the top. The more approaches to the problem, the better the chance of finding something that works. Once this happens, it won't take long for the mainstream to follow.

Increased funding is always a plus, although I don't think it would make a significant difference at this time. I think the government is putting ample funding into their effort on this matter while incorporating a highly trained and efficient organization. In spite of these advantages, I don't think they know much more than the rest of us -- other than the fact that there actually are extraterrestrial intelligent visitors violating our airspace at will, and there is not a thing they can do about it.

Unless someone in the UFO community comes up with some hard physical evidence, which I find highly unlikely after fifty-two years so far, this isn't going to change. So, other than satisfy the curiosity of the many who have not been witness to an UFO sighting, the government is not going to be much help to us.

In my opinion (everybody has one), the problem is the level of technology these ET's seem to possess. It's not just a little ahead of us, but way advanced beyond ours. So the ball is entirely in their court, and I think this mystery will be solved when they (ET's) are ready to disclose the answers.

I also think the time may be approaching for this to happen. I don't think it was a coincidence that the modern era of sightings started shortly after our first nuclear explosions and have continued uninterrupted since. I also don't have an excessive fear of their intentions at this time, based on the amount of time this has been going on and, again, their level of technology. They surely could have eradicated us long before now if that was their intention.

So let's think positive and hope their intentions are honorable. What could we do about it, anyway?

Another thing that makes me think something may develop soon is the fact that they make little or no effort to hide their presence, and in some cases seem to go out of their way to be seen. Is this an attempt to desensitize us to the reality of their presence and to prepare us for eventual contact? I think it might be.

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GARY VAL TENUTA wrote:

As an avid observer of, and small time participant in, the field of ufology, my take is that we're seeing the effects of the subject becoming "mainstream". Case in point: I was quite surprised recently when a local mainstream newspaper accepted my proposal to write a monthly column called "UFO News: A Local and World Report". Keep in mind, this is a paying gig with an established media outlet whose finger is on the pulse of three large counties in the Greater Seattle area. The editors must feel the interest is out there or they wouldn't be wasting their money and column inches on the subject.

In addition I've noticed, since the calendar turned over to 2000, not a week goes by that I don't hear an interview on all three local talk radio stations with an author of a book on some "alternative" subject, including the UFO phenomenon. These are afternoon "drive time" radio shows that used to do nothing but discuss politics...

As you know, the mainstream media (both broadcast and print) are extremely self conscious about their perceived image, which is one reason they tend to shy away from reporting on UFO related issues. However, my observation has been that the subject of UFOs has become more acceptable as a topic of conversation among "regular folks". As that social phenomenon continues to spread, I think we may see it reflected in the mainstream press as well.

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DUNCAN ROADS wrote:

Although I am not a UFO researcher, I have followed and devoured with interest as much material as possible; [and] I claim to have had two UFO sightings myself. I have three comments:

1) I can report what the readers of magazines like NEXUS want from Ufologists -- they want proof. They don't want videos of lights in the sky over Brazil, they want close-ups showing rivets (to quote a few callers over the years). Personally, I feel that the general public has been spoilt rotten by Hollywood special effects movies, and are being unfair with their desires, but that is what the feedback to me is.

2) The total lack of official government response; the lack of mainstream media-reported information (lack of serious coverage on the 6pm news); combined with an increasing number of people who have seen, or know someone who has seen UFOs, has resulted in rampant speculation as to why we are not being "told".

Enter the flourishing world of conspiracy theories, and the wondrous choices of reptilian aliens, greys, MIBs, plots, ET factions fighting each other, etc etc.

In other words, the lack of official disclosures confirming at least the existence of non-Terrestrial visitors is breeding unchecked speculation and bizarre conspiracy theories. One could easily point at Heaven's Gate as an extreme example of various belief systems flourishing in this void of "confirmation".

People now wonder, not whether UFOs exist, [but] why it is being kept secret.

3) How can we determine which UFO researcher to believe? I field many calls from people asking my opinion, because they are bewildered by the many contradictory angles put forward by UFO researchers. Again, this probably reflects more how the general public are used to being "told" what to believe, often without opposition. (For the record, I tell callers to make up their own minds, and to digest as many different viewpoints as possible.)

There are many strong and diverse UFO research personalities out there. Claim and counter-claim put forth in the search for "proof" has degenerated into debate about the telephone cord in the background of the Roswell autopsy footage...

Like so much in our information overload, it now all comes down to "which 'expert'" are you going to believe? After all, for every expert, there is an equal and opposite expert.

UFOlogy seems to have "slowed down" since the heady days of one whistleblower after another coming forth 10 years ago. From a magazine publishing point of view, I recall there being 6 to 8 different glossy UFO magazines on the newsstands here in Australia; now there are two.

I would summarise it thus:

1940-1950s -- strong interest driven by many sightings -- UFO mags and newsletters have huge paid subscribers

1960s-1980s -- initial interest dies down due to media and government denials and poopoo-ing of the subject. UFO mags almost disappear, but mass-market paperbacks start to appear. Quiet behind-the-scenes research.

1980s-2000 -- sudden emergence of abductions, and more sightings. Sci-fi films like ET and Close Encounters appear, with record attendances. A couple of whistleblowers claim to violate their secrecy oaths and step forth with claims of ET and government treaties. Conspiracy theories emerge. UFO mags appear, more whistleblowers, crop circles, autopsy footage, documentaries, radio shows, internet and more. Information is circulated rapidly and repeatedly around the world. The Iron Curtain comes down and reveals wide-spread awareness. Books, conferences, magazines, the X-Files, UFO museums, UFOs on ads -- but still no official confirmation.

I feel that unless "information momentum" is maintained, general public interest will fall off, public pressure on the government will fade out, and we'll be kept in the dark and at the mercy of alien-government conspiracy speculation for the next 20 years.

We need more whistleblowers, more crashed UFOs -- better still, a public landing on the White House lawn -- to save us from the information demons out there.

[Duncan Roads is editor of NEXUS Magazine (<http://www.nexusmagazine.com>).]

LOCAL MEETINGS

UFO STUDY GROUP OF GREATER ST. LOUIS
Meets regularly the second Sunday of
the month at 2 P.M. [REDACTED] Schnuck
Station Rest. 8650 Big Bend, Webster
Groves, MO 63111. For more information
call Spence Wolling, 966-4955, or
Walter Palmer at 771-0173.

MUFON MISSOURI-ST. CHARLES, MO.
Normal reg. mtg. monthly the third Tuesday
of each month at 6:30 PM at the Holiday
Inn Select at 4221 South Outer Rd., St.
Peters, MO., 1/2 mile W. of Cave Springs
Exit 2. For more information, call
Bruce Widaman at 946-1394.

MUFON OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

Regular meetings at 2 P.M. the third
Sunday of the month, now held at the
Ponderosa Steak House in Collinsville.
From St. Louis take 55-70 east to Illinois
157. Turn left or north on 157 and go a
short distance to an overhead sign that
says Police left. Turn left there. Info
call Forest Crawford at (618)-345-0554.

UFO STUDY GROUP OF GREATER ST. LOUIS, INC.

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